

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS28429 / S1104

Under Idaho's current Vehicle Code statutes, a motorist is responsible to stop so many feet away from a crossing when a "train" is approaching; "on-track equipment" is not mentioned. Modern on-track maintenance equipment has evolved into "train like" machines that present the same dangers as a train. This legislation adds the language "or other on-track equipment" into Idaho's Vehicle Code statute anywhere it delineates a motorist's responsibilities at a railroad crossing or when a "train" is present. This legislation is a simple bi-partisan rail safety effort supported by the railroad carriers, rail safety advocates, rail labor and railroad contractors. There has been no opposition because this is a public safety issue. Twenty-eight states have already passed this legislation and an additional seven states are in the process of passing it.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact to the state or the Idaho Transportation Department because this is a minor change to existing Vehicle Code statutes, and will be part of the Idaho Transportation Department's existing budget for the printing of the Vehicle Code.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).